
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2307

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Schoesler, Linville, Sump, Cox, Delvin, Armstrong and Hinkle)

READ FIRST TIME 01/29/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to eligibility to serve as a commissioner of a
2 water conservancy board; amending RCW 90.80.050; and creating a new
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The purpose of this act is to ensure that
6 counties have a sufficient portion of their citizenry eligible to serve
7 as commissioners of water conservancy boards to enable the appointing
8 legislative authorities to fill positions on the boards in both urban
9 and rural counties.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 90.80.050 and 2001 c 237 s 10 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 (1) A water conservancy board constitutes a public body corporate
13 and politic and a separate unit of local government in the state. Each
14 board shall consist of three commissioners appointed by the county
15 legislative authority or authorities as applicable for six-year terms.
16 The county legislative authority or authorities shall stagger the
17 initial appointment of commissioners so that the first commissioners
18 who are appointed shall serve terms of two, four, and six years,

1 respectively, from the date of their appointment. The county
2 legislative authority or authorities may appoint two additional
3 commissioners, for a total of five. If the county or counties elect to
4 appoint five commissioners, the initial terms of the additional
5 commissioners shall be for three and five-year terms respectively. All
6 vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term.

7 (2) The county legislative authority or authorities shall consider,
8 but are not limited in appointing, nominations to the board by people
9 or entities petitioning or requesting the creation of the board. The
10 county legislative authority or authorities shall ensure that at least
11 one commissioner is an individual water right holder who diverts or
12 withdraws water for use within the area served by the board. The
13 county legislative authority or authorities must appoint one person who
14 is not a water right holder, except as provided in subsection (4) of
15 this section. If the county legislative authority or authorities
16 choose not to appoint five commissioners, and as of May 10, 2001, there
17 is no commissioner on an existing board who is not a water right
18 holder, the county or counties are not required to appoint a new
19 commissioner until the first vacancy occurs. In making appointments to
20 the board, the county legislative authority or authorities shall choose
21 from among persons who are residents of the county or counties or a
22 county that is contiguous to the county that the water conservancy
23 board is to serve.

24 (3) No commissioner may participate in a record of decision of a
25 board until he or she has successfully completed the necessary training
26 required under RCW 90.80.040. Commissioners shall serve without
27 compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for necessary travel
28 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 and costs
29 incident to receiving training.

30 (4) For the purposes determining a person's eligibility to be
31 appointed as a commissioner who is not a water right holder under this
32 section, a person is not considered to be a water right holder: (a) By
33 virtue of the person's receiving water from a municipal water supplier
34 as defined in RCW 90.03.015, or (b) if the only water right held by the
35 person is a right to the type of residential use of water that is
36 exempted from permit requirements by RCW 90.44.050 and that right is

1 for water from a well located in a county with a population that is not
2 greater than one hundred fifty thousand people.

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